United Nations A/62/330

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 September 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 61/116 of 14 December 2006, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;
>
> "2. *Reiterates its demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, cooperate, in line with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations, with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate;
>
> "3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the report of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;
>
> "4. *Expresses grave concern* about the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000, as a result of unlawful Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns all Israeli settlement activities and the construction of the wall, as well as the excessive and indiscriminate use of force against the civilian population, including extrajudicial executions;

* A/62/150.

07-50265 (E) 250907

"5. *Welcomes* the free and democratic Palestinian Legislative Council elections that took place on 25 January 2006 and welcomes also the efforts to form a national unity government working towards a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on relevant United Nations resolutions and the agreements concluded between the two sides;

"6. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

"7. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

"8. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment of the thousands of prisoners and detainees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(b) To continue to make available such staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(c) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 7 above;

(d) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

"10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories."

2. The Special Committee met in Geneva from 19 to 23 March to review its work and make plans for its field visit to the Middle East scheduled to be made from 21 July to 4 August. The Committee also held a half-day session on 20 July.

3. During its sessions in Geneva, the Special Committee held consultations with relevant representatives of permanent missions, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and international non-governmental organizations.

Department of Public Information

4. The Department of Public Information disseminated information on the work of the Special Committee during the period covering August 2006 to July 2007, using various means of information dissemination at its disposal.

5. Through its news and media products, the Department ensured that abundant information on the Committee's work and findings was made available to global audiences and broadcast partners in the six official languages of the Organization.

6. The United Nations News Service of the Department provided regular coverage of the Special Committee, raising its profile by posting stories on its activities and findings on the United Nations News Centre website and e-mailing them to tens of thousands of interested subscribers, including hundreds of journalists.

7. The Meetings Coverage Section of the Department issued nine press releases in English and nine in French on the Special Committee during the reporting period, including the Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee's consideration of the agenda item during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

8. United Nations Television covered various aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and related issues in its current affairs, programmes and its live webcasts of meetings of intergovernmental bodies and press conferences held at Headquarters. United Nations Television also provided regular coverage through UNifeed, its six-day-a-week satellite transmission service. During the reporting period, over 40 UNifeed news reports were forwarded to over 500 broadcasters worldwide.

9. United Nations Radio extensively covered the work and findings of the Committee in its news bulletins and current affairs magazines in the six official languages at Headquarters. In addition to direct coverage of the Committee, United Nations Radio produced news and features on a broad range of related subjects, from developments on the ground to humanitarian needs and relief efforts to political and diplomatic interventions and activities.

10. The Department also ensured that web pages on the question of Palestine were updated and maintained in the six official languages on the www.un.org website under its Global Issues page, with links to other related pages, including the database of the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL).

11. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library continued its cooperation with the Division for Palestinian Rights to digitize older United Nations documents for posting on the Official Document System and on UNISPAL.

12. The Special Committee's report was distributed to the media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions by United Nations Information Centres, Information Services and Offices. The United Nations Information Centre in Cairo translated a press release issued by the Special

Committee and disseminated it to Egyptian and other Arab newspapers and news agencies. The Information Centre also arranged a press conference and television interviews for members of the Committee. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva served as media liaison for the Human Rights Council, which during the reporting period dealt with the question of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

13. In compliance with various General Assembly resolutions, the Department, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the United Nations University in Tokyo organized an international media seminar on peace in the Middle East, held in Tokyo, on 26 and 27 June 2007, during which the latest developments relating to the Middle East peace process, including the human rights situation, were discussed. The Department also held an annual training programme for 10 young Palestinian media practitioners from 6 November to 11 December 2006 at Headquarters, which included briefings on human rights and coverage of the work of the General Assembly relating to the question of Palestine.

United Nations A/62/331

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 September 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The occupied Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 61/120 of 14 December 2006, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;
>
> "2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;
>
> "3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

* A/62/150.

07-50272 (E) 240907

"4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

"5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

"6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 14 May 2007, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that the Government inform him of any steps it had taken, or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

United Nations A/62/332

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 September 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/117 of 14 December 2006, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
>
> "2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;
>
> "3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions and as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004, to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

* A/62/150

07-50278 (E) 260907

"4. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth emergency special session, including resolution ES-10/15, with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 14 May 2007, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that the Government of Israel inform him of any steps it had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. On 14 May 2007, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to all permanent missions, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that Governments inform him of any steps they had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. Replies were received from the Permanent Mission of Cuba on 10 July 2007; from the Permanent Mission of Japan on 27 July 2007; and from the Permanent Mission of Argentina on 3 August 2007.

United Nations A/62/333

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 September 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 61/118 of 14 December 2006, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;
>
> "2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49;
>
> "3. *Notes* the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the importance of the dismantlement of the settlements therein as a step towards the implementation of the road map;
>
> "4. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, in this regard, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
>
> "5. *Emphasizes* the need for the parties to speedily resolve all remaining issues in the Gaza Strip, including the removal of rubble;

* A/62/150.

07-50290 (E) 240907

"6. *Reiterates its demand* for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council;

"7. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;

"8. *Stresses* the need for full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions regarding the Israeli settlements, including Security Council resolution 904 (1994), in which, among other things, the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

"9. *Reiterates its calls* for the prevention of all acts of violence by Israeli settlers, especially against Palestinian civilians and properties, particularly in the light of recent developments;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 14 May 2007, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that the Government inform him of any steps it had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. On 14 May 2007, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to all permanent missions, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that Governments inform him of any steps they had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. The Permanent Mission of Cuba forwarded a note verbale dated 10 July 2007 providing, in pertinent part, the following information:

"The separation wall constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, constitutes one of the most serious violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. It has left more than 20 thousand Palestinians without means of earning a living. It has destroyed thousands of hectares of land and water wells in the West Bank, constituting the de facto confiscation of around 60 per cent of the territory, including East Jerusalem."

5. The Permanent Mission of Argentina forwarded a note verbale dated 3 August 2007 containing, in pertinent part, the following information:

"Argentina continues to take the position that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories constitute a unilateral act which prejudices the results of negotiations concerning the definitive juridical status of the territories. In conformity with the road map, Argentina supports calls for the freezing of all settlement activities and other associated measures related to this matter."

United Nations A/62/334

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 September 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Item 34 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 61/119 of 14 December 2006, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;
>
> "2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention, including all of its settlement activities and the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, as well as the extrajudicial executions;
>
> "3. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries, including among children,

* A/62/150.

07-50284 (E) 260907

massive destruction of homes, properties, agricultural lands and vital infrastructure, and the internal displacement of civilians;

"4. *Expresses grave concern* at the use of suicide bombing attacks against Israeli civilians resulting in extensive loss of life and injury;

"5. *Notes* the Israeli withdrawal from within the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the dismantlement of the settlements therein as a step towards the implementation of the road map;

"6. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, in this regard, to comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, with respect to the alteration of the character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

"7. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, and that it respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard;

"8. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation being faced by the Palestinian people;

"9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to release the tax revenues due to the Palestinian Authority, in accordance with the Paris Economic Protocol of 1994, and to ease the severe closures and restrictions on movement;

"10. *Acknowledges* the role the temporary international mechanism plays in assisting directly the Palestinian people, and encourages interested donors to make use of the mechanism;

"11. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of Palestinian civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

"12. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has gravely impacted the human rights and the socio-economic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

"13. *Stresses* the need for respect for the unity and territorial integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including the removal of restrictions on movement into and from East Jerusalem, and the freedom of movement to and from the outside world;

"14. *Also stresses* the need for the full implementation by both parties of the Sharm El-Sheikh understandings and the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 14 May 2007, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that the Government inform him of any steps it had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

4. On 14 May 2007, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to all permanent missions, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the above-mentioned resolution, that Governments inform him of any steps they had taken, or envisaged taking, concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. The Permanent Mission of Japan forwarded a note verbale dated 27 July 2007 providing, in pertinent part, the following information:

"In March 2007, the Government of Japan decided to extend, inter alia, emergency grant aid of a total of $7.2 million to the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations Population Fund in order to improve the humanitarian situation of the Palestinians, with a view to improving medical care and alleviating unemployment and poverty through the provision of medical supplies and equipment, rehabilitation of medical facilities and job creation."

United Nations A/62/335

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 September 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Item 12 of the provisional agenda*
Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Letter dated 5 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement delivered by Hoshyar Zebari, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq, at the tripartite Iraq-United States-Iran meeting held on 24 July 2007 (see annex). I have further the honour to request that this be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 12 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) T. Hamid **Al-Bayati**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/62/150.

07-51259 (E) 250907 260907

Annex to the letter dated 5 September 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

We warmly welcome you and are pleased at the response of your two Governments to our invitation to the second round of United States-Iran-Iraq talks held today in Baghdad.

The first round was positive, was held in an atmosphere of openness and transparency, achieved its priority objectives of breaking the alienation and deadlock in relations and highlighted general agreement on supporting Iraq and its national Government, respecting its sovereignty and independence, non-interference in its internal affairs and in combating terrorism which has become a matter of daily concern in the life of Iraqi citizens and an impediment to progress and development towards the security, stability and prosperity of the country.

The agreement reached at the end of the previous meeting laid the groundwork for continuation of the dialogue today and for taking it on to a new stage so as to put an end to the security problems and difficulties, find ways of cooperating to address them, achieve a practical solution that meets the needs of Iraq and support the efforts of the Government to confront terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, to defeat it and safeguard the security and stability of the country which are basic necessities for the country's development, reconstruction and future development towards a democratic, pluralistic, federal and united Iraq.

We are taking part in this meeting as an essential and active party to the talks as we feel that any discussion of the situation of Iraq and any resulting agreements concerning it by States friendly to us must be achieved through clear understandings with the Iraqi Government and in a form that responds to the interests and total independence of our country, ensures non-interference in its internal affairs, does not affect Iraq's freedom of decision and respects its choices in building its present and its future.

The Iraqi Government will not be a party to any endeavour of which it is not part and which does not take into consideration the demands and needs of the Government.

We affirm that these meetings, which we have entered into, which we strove to bring about and for the continuation of which we shall continue to strive, are a matter of the will of Iraq and a response, first and foremost, to Iraq's desire to arrive at joint understandings and agreements between the three States on cooperation and coordination in support of the Government's programmes and orientations and the removal of obstacles that impede its efforts.

We are convinced that it is in the interests of the United States of America and of the Islamic Republic of Iran that Iraq should be stable and secure with no place for terrorism, and accordingly we emphasize that today's talks are exclusively about Iraq. We therefore emphasize the following:

I. Affirmation of respect for the unity, sovereignty and democratic choice of Iraq, and non-interference in its internal affairs; that is matched by clear and firm

undertakings to enforce that affirmation and to hold violators of this position responsible.

II. That the talks will result in agreement on steps to assist Iraq to achieve stability, to control all its internal affairs, to take charge of its internal security, to protect its borders and to rely on its own capacities; this means that Iraq, within a period to be determined by the progress achieved in building up its military and security capacities, will be without the international forces and will be strengthened by regional interventions, and that it will be a stable and secure country for its own people and for its neighbours.

III. Respect for the will of the Iraqi people and for its options in building the system it deems appropriate means, in the first place, non-interference in any form whatever aimed at influencing any Iraqi (either collectively or individually) in a manner incompatible with the Iraqi national interest or involvement in actions or orientations that serve regional or foreign agendas or support any armed group irrespective of its national or sectarian orientations in order to attain purposes incompatible with respect for peaceful, political and democratic means and legitimate elected institutions.

IV. The presence of multinational forces resulted from the request and need of Iraq to complete the building up and preparation of its security and military forces. The length of their stay, confirmation of their withdrawal and the manner of such withdrawal are subject to the decision of the Iraqi Government and it is for all States that are friendly towards Iraq to respect that option and to assist Iraq in building up its forces so as to be able to terminate the presence of foreign troops in Iraq. At the same time, these forces are present in order to support Iraq in its war against terrorism and they are not directed against Iran or any other State.

V. It is in Iraq's interest to have strong and multifaceted relations with its neighbour Iran based on mutual respect for the independence and sovereignty of both countries; Iraq repudiates any threat to the security of Iran and interference in its internal affairs, just as its expects Iran to stop any effort or activity by any Iranian entity that is likely to weaken Iraq or impair its internal security by giving support, with weapons, training or financing, to any armed group or militia, sectarian party or extremist group or providing them with facilities to target the Iraqi military or security forces or the multinational forces which are supporting them in the process of law enforcement and combating terrorism.

VI. In the context of supporting the Iraqi Government and respecting its sovereignty and international commitments, we call upon the Government of the United States of America to respect the presence of Iranian diplomats and officials working, and legally present, in Iraq.

VII. Iraq regards the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization as a terrorist organization and, in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and relevant international organizations, is endeavouring to expel elements of the organization from Iraq. When that is accomplished, Iraq affirms that the organization and its members will not be allowed to carry out any military, political or information-related activity that is detrimental to the interests or security of Iran or threatens the security of Iraqis.

VIII. We affirm the need for Iranian institutions to cooperate with their Iraqi counterparts and for direct coordination with them in curbing the smuggling of oil,

weapons, drugs and other prohibited substances, in addressing the related problems in frontier oil fields and oil wells and in strengthening measures connected with monitoring and securing the borders and entry and exit points by land, sea and air; the Iranian Government is providing the necessary facilities to help Iraq in dealing with these matters either on a bilateral basis or through the support provided by the United States of America and other friendly States.

IX. In the context of building confidence and cooperation, there should, in our view, be mechanisms for the exchange of information and for cooperation in combating terrorism in Iraq, and its extension in neighbouring States, in which our three countries would participate.

X. The Iraqi Government considers it important that these meetings, in which our three countries are taking part, should be continued on many levels in order to follow up matters that have been agreed and to focus on addressing any difficulties that arise during the process of applying what has been agreed, and that the meeting should continue in Baghdad. In addition, there should be a mechanism for rapid contact between representatives of the three countries for the purpose of consultation on any new matter that arises.